

Brent Blackburn
335 62nd St
Oakland CA 94618

Sep 6th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am a consumer who supports broadband competition. I'm writing to express concern about the petition filed by USTelecom in May, 2018 to end existing requirements of the 1996 Telecommunications Act that incumbent telecom carriers must provide competitive access to certain portions of their infrastructure.

If the FCC grants this request, I will be directly affected as a current subscriber of services provided by a competitive carrier which uses this infrastructure. I anticipate that the cost of my DSL and telephone service will increase substantially or that these services may be eliminated altogether if my provider isn't able to purchase wholesale access to the incumbents' networks any longer.

I use competitive broadband and telephone services at both my home and my office, and it is important to me that the marketplace for such service is robust among competitors to ensure reliable service, fair pricing, and excellent customer service.

My existing provider is in the process of building a new, modern fiber-optic network that I hope to someday be able to utilize, but it is not yet available in my locations. The current services to which I subscribe (like thousands of other customers) has given my provider a customer base and revenue stream that has allowed it to expand its offerings, like its current fiber-optic deployment projects, into new neighborhoods. Changing the existing rules as requested by USTelecom (and their incumbent telecom company sponsors) will directly impact my provider's ability to expand its services.

Please consider that the existing rules provide me and many others with broadband and telephone services that would be materially affected if the rules are changed by way of this petition. The proposed changes will lead to a decrease in competition in the marketplace for these services which, over time, will cause prices to increase and the quality of service to decrease.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brent Blackburn

